

Bonhomme, Penny

From: npaolino@bridgeport.edu
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 6:27 PM
To: PHC Testimony
Subject: HB 5541

Hello, My name is Nicole Paolino. I am a Dental Hygiene student at Fones School of Dental Hygiene at the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut. I would like you to support, on my behalf, legislation to establish the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner, bill HB5541. As a dental hygiene student, I feel it is very important to support the ADHP for many reasons.

The ADHP will add a new member to the dental team to deliver care to the underserved in Connecticut. Access to dental services necessary to maintain optimal oral health, which is an integral component of total health, can increase with the creation of a midlevel practitioner like the ADHP. Please support the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner. This proposal will make it possible for thousands of underserved patients who cannot obtain care, to receive needed dental care. This type of midlevel provider, akin to the APRN (nurse practitioner) is the way of the future and as you know CT is the Origin of Dental Hygiene- Bridgeport 1913. We will be celebrating the 100th year, next May. There are 11 states that have advanced dental hygienists and Connecticut should be one of them!

Not only will this bill open more opportunities within the work place but will also offer further education. With the advancement of this bill, I plan to continue my education and one day hold the ADHP title.

Sincerely,

Nicole Paolino SDH

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